RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAY 18 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital video recording system comprising:

a camera directed at a scene of interest to view the scene and to continuously generate a plurality of video images thereof, each of said video images comprising a plurality of pixel elements;

an image processor configured to process blocks of said pixels and to compare each of said blocks against a corresponding block from a previously established reference image of said scene to determine if any changes have occurred therein, said processor configured to identify which of said blocks in said video images have changed relative to the corresponding block in said previously established reference image; ~~and~~

a memory associated with said image processor, said memory configured to store said reference image and said identified changed blocks in said memory; and

said image processor is further configured to access said memory to retrieve said video images produced by said camera, said image processor accessing said memory at any desired memory location representing a time of interest so as not to have to sequentially scan a plurality of video images to locate a video image of interest, and said image processor configured to access said memory without interrupting said processing of currently acquired video images.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said camera is an analog video camera.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 further including a frame grabber configured to receive said video images from said camera and to generate a digital signal representation of said video images.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said camera is a digital video camera.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A digital video recording system comprising:

a camera directed at a scene of interest to view the scene and to continuously generate a plurality of video images thereof;

an image processor configured to compare the video images generated by said camera with a previously established reference image of said scene to determine if any changes have occurred therein;

a memory associated with said image processor, said memory configured to store a plurality of video images;

wherein said image processor is further configured to access said memory to retrieve said video images produced by said camera, said image processor accessing said memory at any desired memory location representing a time of interest so as not to have to sequentially scan a plurality of video images to locate a video image of interest, and said image processor configured to access said memory without interrupting said processing of currently acquired video images;

wherein each of said plurality of video images comprises a plurality of pixel elements and said image processor is configured to process blocks of said pixels and to compare each of said blocks against a corresponding block from said previously established reference image;

wherein said image processor is configured to identify which of said blocks in said video images have changed relative to the corresponding block in said previously established reference image; and

wherein said image processor is configured to store said reference image and said identified changed blocks in said memory.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein said image processor is configured to store the location in said image of said identified changed blocks in said memory.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein said image processor is configured to compress said reference image and said identified changed blocks prior to storage.

10. (Previously Presented) A digital video recording system comprising:

a camera directed at a scene of interest to view the scene and to continuously generate a plurality of video images thereof;

an image processor configured to compare the video images generated by said camera with a previously established reference image of said scene to determine if any changes have occurred therein;

a memory associated with said image processor, said memory configured to store a plurality of video images;

wherein said image processor is further configured to access said memory to retrieve said video images produced by said camera, said image processor accessing said memory at any desired memory location representing a time of interest so as not to have to sequentially scan a plurality of video images to locate a video image of interest, and said image processor configured to access said memory without interrupting said processing of currently acquired video images;

wherein each of said plurality of video images comprises a plurality of pixel elements and said image processor is configured to process blocks of said pixels and to compare each of said blocks against a corresponding block from said previously established reference image; and

wherein said image processor is configured to store those block of said video image which differ from a corresponding block of said reference image, said image processor configured to apply a compression algorithm to each of said blocks prior to storage to maximize the storage capability of said memory.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said image processor is configured to update said previously established reference image of the scene against which said digital signals are compared.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein said image processor is further configured to store a time and date stamp with said video images.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein said image processor is further configured to store authentication data with said video images.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~42~~ wherein said image processor is configured to retrieve said video images at a second frame rate different from a first frame rate at which said video images were captured by said camera.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said image processor is remote from said memory and said system includes a transmission means for communicating video images between said memory and said image processor.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including an event identifier, said event identifier providing event identification data to said image processor, said image processor configured to associated said event identification data with said video images generated by said camera.

18-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A digital video recording system comprising:

a plurality of cameras directed towards at least one scene of interest to view said at least one scene and to continuously generate a plurality of video images thereof;

an image processor configured to compare said plurality of video images generated by said cameras with a plurality of previously established reference images of said at least one scene to identify any regions of change therein, said processor configured to store only those regions of said video images which differ from said a corresponding region of the reference image and the reference image in ; a memory associated with said image processor; and

wherein said image processor is further configured to access said memory to retrieve at least one video image of interest produced by said cameras, said image processor accessing said memory at any desired memory location representing a time of interest so as not to have to sequentially scan a plurality of video images to locate said video image of interest, and said image processor configured to access said memory without interrupting said processing of currently acquired video images.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said image processor is further configured to access said memory to retrieve a plurality of video images of interest produced by said cameras.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said image processor is configured to generate a combined video image from said plurality of video images generated by said cameras and to compare said combined video image with a combined reference image composed of a plurality of reference images of said at least one scene.

27. (Previously Presented) A digital video recording system comprising:

a plurality of cameras directed towards at least one scene of interest to view said at least one scene and to continuously generate a plurality of video images thereof;

an image processor configured to compare said plurality of video images generated by said cameras with a plurality of previously established reference images of said at least one scene to identify any regions of change therein;

a memory associated with said image processor, said memory configured to store a plurality of images;

wherein said image processor is further configured to access said memory to retrieve at least one video image of interest produced by said cameras, said image processor accessing said memory at any desired memory location representing a time of interest so as not to have to sequentially scan a plurality of video images to locate said video image of interest, and said image processor configured to access said memory without interrupting said processing of currently acquired video images; and

wherein said image processor is configured to store any identified regions of change in said memory.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of recording video images and storing and retrieving the same comprising:

viewing a scene of interest with a camera and generating video images thereof;

converting each frame of video imagery produced by said camera to a digital signal;

processing said digital signal, said processing including

comparing blocks of the video image represented by a digital signal with corresponding blocks of a previously established reference of the scene to determine if any changes have occurred in any of the blocks therein, and storing the contents of said blocks in a memory if the block differs from the corresponding block of the reference image with date and time data appended to each stored video image represented by a digital signal; and,

accessing said memory to retrieve the contents of said digital signals to recreate the video images produced by said camera, said memory being accessed to retrieve said video images simultaneously with digital signals being stored therein, and said memory being accessed at any

desired location representing a time of interest whereby video images stored in said memory do not to be sequentially scanned to locate a video image of interest.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein said video images are acquired from said camera at one frame rate and from said memory at a second predetermined frame rate.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28 further including accessing said memory from a location remote therefrom.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28 further including authenticating stored video images.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28 further including a plurality of cameras each of which is directed at a respective scene of interest, and the method further includes each camera continuously viewing each respective scene and generating video images thereof at a predetermined frame rate, converting each frame of video image from each camera to a signal, processing each digital signal and storing the processed video images in the memory.

33. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein said image processor is configured to update the reference image against which said digital signals are compared.

34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A digital video recording system comprising:

a camera directed at a scene of interest to view the scene and to continuously generate a plurality of video images thereof;.

an image processor configured to compare the video images generated by said camera with a previously established reference image of said scene to identify the occurrence of a change in said scene;

a memory associated with said image processor, said memory configured to store video image data of the video image if the video image differs from the reference image;

wherein said image processor is further configured to select and store said previously established reference video image in said memory, and wherein said image processor is further configured to store, in said memory, video image data representative of identified changes in said scene;

wherein each of said video images is composed of a plurality of pixels, and wherein said video image data representative of identified changes in said scene includes at least one changed block of pixels from a video image together with a reference image associated block map; and

wherein said reference image associated block map consists of at least one binary representation of a corresponding pixel block comprising a video image, a first binary representation indicating an unchanged pixel block, and a second binary representation indicating a changed pixel block.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein a position of said binary representation of said corresponding pixel block in said reference image associated block map indicates the position of said pixel block in said video image.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein said video image data representative of identified changes is compressed prior to storage in said memory.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein said video image data representative of identified changes includes transaction identification information.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein said image processor is further configured to reconstruct a video image of a changed scene by extracting said previously established reference video image together with said video image data representative of said identified changes in said scene from said memory.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)